

Claims

1. A disk drive comprising: access means accessing a disk which is rotationally driven; an interface circuit connected to said access means and interfaced
5 with an outside; and a microcomputer which controls an operation of said access means and which is connected to said interface circuit,

said microcomputer including one semiconductor substrate having an electrically erasable and
10 programmable nonvolatile semiconductor memory and a central processing unit which accesses said nonvolatile semiconductor memory,

said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having a reboot program area and an application program area in
15 its memory area,

said application program area having an area which stores an application program to be executed by said central processing unit to control said access means and said interface circuit,

20 said reboot program area having an area which stores a reboot program which causes said central processing unit to execute processing for rewriting said application program area,

said central processing unit executing said
25 reboot program to rewrite said application program

area in whole or part, in response to a rewrite
command for said application program area which is
supplied to said interface circuit from the outside,
or executing said application program stored in said
5 application program area to control said access means
and said interface circuit, in response to a disk
access command supplied to said interface circuit from
the outside.

2. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said
10 reboot program includes an input control program, a
rewrite control program and a transfer control
program,

said central processing unit which responds to
the rewrite command providing control to execute said
15 input control program and fetch said application
program which is, in whole or part, supplied to said
interface circuit from the outside, execute said
transfer control program and transfer said rewrite
control program from said reboot program area to a
20 built-in RAM of said microcomputer, and execute said
rewrite control program transferred to said built-in
RAM and write said application program fetched in
whole or part, into said application program area.

3. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said
25 reboot program includes an input control program and a

transfer control program,

5 said central processing unit which responds to
the rewrite command providing control to execute said
input control program and fetch said write control
program and said application program which is, in
whole or part, supplied to said interface circuit from
the outside, execute said transfer control program and
transfer said fetched rewrite control program to a
built-in RAM of said microcomputer, and execute said
10 rewrite control program transferred to said built-in
RAM and write said application program fetched in
whole or part, into said application program area.

4. A disk drive according to claim 2 or 3, wherein
said reboot program further includes an area which
15 stores a vector table and a reset processing program,

 said central processing unit, in response to a
reset instruction, proceeding to execution of said
reset processing program by referring to said vector
table, and, during the execution of said reset
20 processing program, determining whether said central
processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of
responding to the rewrite command; when in the forced
reboot state, said central processing unit proceeding
to execution of said reboot program after receiving an
25 input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced

reboot state, said central processing unit proceeding to a state of being able to execute said application program stored in said application program area.

5. A disk drive according to claim 2 or 3, wherein
5 said application program area further includes in a memory area thereof a sum storing area which stores a sum of information held in another memory area,

said reboot program area further having an area which stores a vector table and a reset processing
10 program,

said central processing unit, in response to a reset instruction, proceeding to execution of said reset processing program by referring to said vector table, and, during the execution of said reset
15 processing program, determining whether said central processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of responding to the rewrite command; when in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit proceeding to execution of said reboot program after receiving an
20 input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit determining whether the sum stored in said sum storing area coincides with a sum of the information held in said other memory area; if it is not determined that both
25 sums coincide with each other, said central processing

unit proceeding to execution of said reboot program after receiving an input of the rewrite command; if it is determined that both sums coincide with each other, said central processing unit proceeding to a state of being able to execute said application program stored in said application program area.

6. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile semiconductor memory is a flash memory having a plurality of memory blocks each of which constitutes a collectively erasable unit, said reboot program area and said application program area being assigned to mutually different memory blocks.

7. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said reboot program area holds a program written in a process of manufacturing said microcomputer.

8. A disk drive according to claim 1, further comprising means for inhibiting rewrite of said reboot program area.

9. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said interface circuit has ATAPI interface specifications.

10. A computer comprising: a main board including a microprocessor and a peripheral interface controller which are connected to a bus; and a disk drive according to claim 1, said disk drive being connected to said peripheral interface controller via said

interface circuit included in said disk drive.

11. A computer comprising: a main board including a microprocessor and an IDE interface controller which are connected to a PCI bus; and a disk drive according to claim 9, said disk drive being connected to said IDE interface controller via said interface circuit included in said disk drive.

12. A computer according to claim 11, wherein said main board and said disk drive are incorporated in one case.

13. A computer comprising: a main board including a microprocessor and a peripheral interface controller which are connected to a bus; and a disk drive connected to said peripheral interface controller, said main board and said disk drive being incorporated in one case,

said disk drive including reproducing means reading and reproducing recorded information from a disk which is rotationally driven, an interface circuit which outputs information reproduced by said reproducing means to said peripheral interface controller and also receives information supplied via said peripheral interface controller, and a microcomputer connected to said reproducing means and said interface circuit,

said microcomputer including one semiconductor substrate having a central processing unit and an electrically erasable and programmable nonvolatile semiconductor memory,

5 said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having a reboot program area and an application program area in its memory area,

 said application program area having an area which stores an application program to be executed by
10 said central processing unit to control said reproducing means and said interface circuit,

 said reboot program area having an area which stores a reboot program which causes said central processing unit to execute processing for rewriting
15 said application program area,

 said central processing unit executing said reboot program to rewrite said application program area in whole or part, in response to a rewrite command for said application program area which is
20 supplied to said interface circuit via said peripheral interface controller, or executing said application program to control said reproducing means and said interface circuit, in response to a disk access command supplied to said interface circuit via said
25 peripheral interface controller.

14. A computer comprising: a PC board including a microprocessor and an IDE interface controller which are connected to a PCI bus; and a disk drive connected to said IDE interface controller, said PC board and
5 said disk drive being incorporated in one case,
said disk drive including: access means accessing a disk which is rotationally driven; an ATAPI interface circuit connected to said access means and connected to said IDE interface controller; and a
10 microcomputer which controls an operation of said access means and which is connected to said ATAPI interface circuit,
said microcomputer including one semiconductor substrate having an electrically erasable and
15 programmable nonvolatile semiconductor memory and a central processing unit which executes a program stored in said nonvolatile semiconductor memory,
said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having a reboot program area and an application program area in
20 its memory area,
said application program area having an area which stores an application program to be executed by said central processing unit to control said access means and said ATAPI interface circuit,
25 said reboot program area having an area which

stores a vector table, a reset processing program and a reboot program which causes said central processing unit to execute processing for rewriting said application program area in whole or part,

5 said central processing unit, in response to a reset instruction, proceeding to execution of said reset processing program by referring to said vector table, and, during the execution of said reset processing program, determining whether said central
10 processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of responding to a rewrite command for said application program area which is supplied to said ATAPI interface circuit via said IDE interface controller; when in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit
15 proceeding to execution of said reboot program after receiving an input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit proceeding to a state of being able to execute said application program stored in said application program
20 area.

15. A computer comprising: a PC board including a microprocessor and an IDE interface controller which are connected to a bus; and a disk drive connected to said IDE interface controller, said PC board and said
25 disk drive being incorporated in one case,

said disk drive including: access means accessing
a disk which is rotationally driven; an ATAPI
interface circuit connected to said access means and
connected to said IDE interface controller; and a
5 microcomputer which controls an operation of said
access means and which is connected to said ATAPI
interface circuit,

said microcomputer including one semiconductor
substrate having an electrically erasable and
10 programmable nonvolatile semiconductor memory and a
central processing unit which executes a program
stored in said nonvolatile semiconductor memory,

said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having a
reboot program area and an application program area in
15 its memory area,

said application program area having an area
which stores an application program to be executed by
said central processing unit to control said access
means and said ATAPI interface circuit, said
20 application program area having in a memory area
thereof a sum storing area which stores a sum of
information held in another memory area,

said reboot program area having an area which
stores a vector table, a reset processing program and
25 a reboot program which causes said central processing

unit to execute processing for rewriting said application program area in whole or part,

 said central processing unit, in response to a reset instruction, proceeding to execution of said reset processing program by referring to said vector table, and, during the execution of said reset processing program, determining whether said central processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of responding to a rewrite command for said application program area which is supplied to said ATAPI interface circuit via said IDE interface controller; when in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit proceeding to execution of said reboot program after receiving an input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit determining whether the sum stored in said sum storing area coincides with a sum of the information held in said other memory area; if it is not determined that both sums coincide with each other, said central processing unit proceeding to execution of said reboot program after receiving an input of the rewrite command; if it is determined that both sums coincide with each other, said central processing unit proceeding to a state of being able to execute the application program stored in said application program

area.

16. A disk drive comprising: reproducing means
reading and reproducing recorded information from a
disk which is rotationally driven; an interface
5 circuit which is interfaced with a host connected to
said reproducing means; and a microcomputer which
controls an operation of said reproducing means and
which is connected to said interface circuit,

said microcomputer including a central processing
10 unit and an electrically erasable and programmable
nonvolatile semiconductor memory,

said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having an
application program area which stores a program for
controlling a reproducing operation of said
15 reproducing means and an operation of said interface
circuit, and a reboot program area in which rewriting
of stored information is inhibited,

said central processing unit executing a program
of said reboot program in response to a reset
20 instruction, and determining whether said central
processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of
responding to a rewrite command for said application
program area, which is issued from said host; when in
the forced reboot state, said central processing unit,
25 after receiving an input of the rewrite command,

providing control to rewrite said application program area, in whole or part, with a program supplied to said interface circuit after the input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced reboot state, said
5 central processing unit proceeding to a state of being able to execute the program stored in said application program area.

17. A disk drive comprising: reproducing means reading and reproducing recorded information from a
10 disk which is rotationally driven; an interface circuit which is interfaced with a host connected to said reproducing means; and a microcomputer which controls an operation of said reproducing means and which is connected to said interface circuit,
15 said microcomputer including a central processing unit and an electrically erasable and programmable nonvolatile semiconductor memory,

said nonvolatile semiconductor memory having an application program area which stores a program for
20 controlling a reproducing operation of said reproducing means and an operation of said interface circuit, and a reboot program area in which rewriting of stored information is inhibited, said application program area having in a memory area thereof a sum
25 storing area which stores a sum of information held in

another memory area,

said reboot program area having an area which stores a vector table, a reset processing program and a reboot program which causes said central processing
5 unit to execute processing for rewriting said application program area in whole or part,

said central processing unit, in response to a reset instruction, executing a program stored in said reboot program area and determining whether said
10 central processing unit is in a forced reboot state capable of responding to a rewrite command for said application program area which is issued from said host; when in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit, after receiving an input of the
15 rewrite command, providing control to rewrite said application program area, in whole or part, with a program supplied to said interface circuit after the input of the rewrite command; when not in the forced reboot state, said central processing unit determining
20 whether the sum stored in said sum storing area coincides with a sum of the information held in said other memory area; if it is not determined that both sums coincide with each other, said central processing unit, after receiving an input of the rewrite command,
25 providing control to rewrite said application program

area, in whole or part, with a program supplied to said interface circuit after the input of the rewrite command; if it is determined that both sums coincide with each other, said central processing unit

5 proceeding to a state of being able to execute the program stored in said application program area.

18. A disk drive according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said nonvolatile semiconductor memory is a flash memory having a plurality of memory blocks each of

10 which constitutes a collectively erasable unit, said reboot program area and said application program area being assigned to mutually different memory blocks.

19. A disk drive according to claim 18, wherein said reboot program area holds a program written in a

15 process of manufacturing said microcomputer.

20. A computer comprising: a main board including a microprocessor and a peripheral interface controller which are connected to a bus; and a disk drive according to claim 16 or 17, said main board and said

20 disk drive being incorporated in one case, said disk drive being connected to said peripheral interface controller via said interface circuit included in said disk drive.